Press Release: October 31, 2002 Contact: Ron O'Blenis, (617) 647-2012

## High Speed Rail Study Results To Go Public

MONTPELIER - - Will high-speed rail between Boston and Montreal be a travel option of the future?

For the last year a team has been working on the initial phase of a study into the feasibility of a high-speed rail service between the two cities and is preparing to share what has been learned at a series of public meetings to be held in November. The meetings will be held at the following locations:

- New Hampshire: Tuesday, November 12, 2002 at the New Hampshire Department of Transportation John O. Morton Building on Hazen Drive in Concord at 6:30 p.m.
- Massachusetts: Wednesday, November 13, 2002 at the Lowell Regional Transit Authority Bus Maintenance Garage Conference Room on Hale Street in Lowell at 6:30 p.m.
- Vermont: Thursday, November 14, 2002 at the Pavilion Auditorium on State Street in Montpelier at 6:30 p.m.
- Quebec: Monday, November 25 at Marché Bonsecours, Forum de la Cité, 350 St. Paul E, in Montreal at 7 p.m.

The meetings are open to the public. Anyone interested in the future of transportation in the Boston to Montreal corridor is encouraged to attend.

The Vermont Agency of Transportation in partnership with the State of New Hampshire and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and in conjunction with the Federal Railroad Administration is sponsoring the study. The study team is led by the consulting firm of Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas, Inc. of Manchester, NH

Scott Bascom of the Vermont Agency of Transportation - project manager for the study – said that the study team thought it was important "to take a proactive approach with full coordination and communication with key stakeholders and local communities to identify potential positive and negative project impacts." In late 2000, this Boston to Montreal corridor was included as part of one of the nation's three new High Speed Rail Corridors designated by the Federal Railroad Administration. The principal objectives of high-speed rail service are to provide an alternate way to travel and to reduce congestion associated with highway and air travel.

The Boston to Montreal corridor is about 325 miles; roughly equal to the Northeast high-speed rail corridor between Boston and Philadelphia.

The Boston-Montreal High Speed Rail Corridor Feasibility and Planning Study – Phase I examined potential ridership, existing track and infrastructure conditions as well as policy and institutional issues, including those relating to crossing international borders. Initial findings of Phase I and recommendations for Phase II of the study, which would examine operational, revenue and cost issues, will be discussed at the public meetings.

For more information on the study, visit the website: www.bostonmontrealhsr.org.

*For further information on the study please contact:*

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